

IN THE CLAIMS

Please amend the claims, as follows:

Claims 1-20 cancelled

21. (cancelled)

22. (cancelled)

23. (currently amended) ~~The pneumatic radial ply runflat tire of claim 21 characterized in that:~~ A pneumatic radial ply runflat tire having a tread, a carcass structure comprising at least one radial carcass ply, and two sidewalls comprising:

a single circumferentially-disposed wedge insert disposed on an inner surface of each sidewall, each wedge insert having a saw-tooth shaped cross-section comprising a plurality of circumferentially disposed segments each of which is separated from one another, during normal-inflated operation, by a plurality of intervening circumferential grooves;

wherein each groove is bounded by an outer surface of a given segment and an inner surface of an adjacent segment; and

the outer surface of a given segment and the inner surface of an adjacent segment intersect at a hinge point P, and the segments can therefore pivot with respect to each other;

the outer surface of a given segment is convex; and

the inner surface of an adjacent segment is concave;

wherein during runflat operation, when the outer surface engages the inner surface, axial deflection is substantially prevented.

24. (original) The pneumatic radial ply runflat tire of claim 21 characterized in that the outer surface of a given insert and the inner surface of an adjacent insert engage each other during runflat operation.

25. (currently amended) ~~The pneumatic radial ply runflat tire of claim 21 characterized in that:~~

A pneumatic radial ply runflat tire having a tread, a carcass structure comprising at least

one radial carcass ply, and two sidewalls comprising:

a single circumferentially-disposed wedge insert disposed on an inner surface of each sidewall, each wedge insert having a saw-tooth shaped cross-section comprising a plurality of circumferentially disposed segments each of which is separated from one another, during normal-inflated operation, by a plurality of intervening circumferential grooves;

wherein each groove is bounded by an outer surface of a given segment and an inner surface of an adjacent segment;

the outer surface of a given segment and the inner surface of an adjacent segment intersect at a hinge point P, and the segments can therefore pivot with respect to each other; and

the outer surface of a given insert and the inner surface of an adjacent insert are both non-flat surfaces.

26. (currently amended) The pneumatic radial ply runflat tire of claim ~~24~~ 25 characterized in that:

an inner liner is disposed on the inner and outer surfaces of the segments.

27. (currently amended) The pneumatic radial ply runflat tire of claim ~~24~~ 25 characterized in that:

an inner liner is disposed between the wedge insert and an inner ply of the tire.

28. (currently amended) ~~The pneumatic radial ply runflat tire of claim 21 characterized in that: A pneumatic radial ply runflat tire having a tread, a carcass structure comprising at least one radial carcass ply, and two sidewalls comprising:~~

a single circumferentially-disposed wedge insert disposed on an inner surface of each sidewall, each wedge insert having a saw-tooth shaped cross-section comprising a plurality of circumferentially disposed segments each of which is separated from one another, during normal-inflated operation, by a plurality of intervening circumferential grooves;

wherein each groove is bounded by an outer surface of a given segment and an inner surface of an adjacent segment;

the outer surface of a given segment and the inner surface of an adjacent segment

intersect at a hinge point P, and the segments can therefore pivot with respect to each other; and
the length of the inner and outer surfaces of the segments extend less than the thickness of the insert.

29. (original) A pneumatic radial ply runflat tire having a tread, a carcass structure comprising at least one radial carcass ply, two sidewalls and at least one wedge insert disposed on an inner surface of each sidewall, each wedge insert comprising a plurality of circumferentially disposed segments each of which is separated from one another, during normal-inflated operation, by a plurality of intervening circumferential grooves; and

each groove is bounded by an outer surface of a given segment and an inner surface of an adjacent segment;

characterized in that:

at least one of the outer surface of a given insert and the inner surface of an adjacent insert is a non-flat surface.

30. (original) The pneumatic radial ply runflat tire of claim 29, characterized in that:
the outer surfaces of selected ones of the segments are convex; and
the inner surfaces of selected ones of the segments are concave.

31. (original) The pneumatic radial ply runflat tire of claim 29, characterized in that:
the outer surface of a given segment is convex; and
the inner surface of an adjacent segment is concave;
wherein during runflat operation, when the outer surface engages the inner surface, axial deflection is substantially prevented.

32. (original) The pneumatic radial ply runflat tire of claim 29, characterized in that:
the outer surface of a given segment is concave; and
the inner surface of an adjacent segment is convex;
wherein during runflat operation, when the outer surface engages the inner surface, axial deflection is substantially prevented.

33. (original) The pneumatic radial ply runflat tire of claim 29, characterized in that: the outer surface of a given segment and the inner surface of an adjacent segment surfaces intersect at a hinge point P, and the segments can therefore pivot with respect to each other.

34. (original) The pneumatic radial ply runflat tire of claim 29 characterized in that the outer surface of a given insert and the inner surface of an adjacent insert engage each other during runflat operation.

35. (original) The pneumatic radial ply runflat tire of claim 29 characterized in that: an inner liner is disposed on the inner and outer surfaces of the segments.

36. (original) The pneumatic radial ply runflat tire of claim 29 characterized in that: an inner liner is disposed between the wedge insert and an inner ply of the tire.

37. (original) The pneumatic radial ply runflat tire of claim 29, characterized in that: the length of the inner and outer surfaces of the segments extend less than the thickness of the insert.

38. (cancelled)

39. (cancelled)

40. (cancelled)